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In the claims:

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A telephony switch comprising:

a switching fabric;

a first interface adapted to connect the switching fabric to a packet fabric;

a computing module operatively associated with the switching fabric and the first interface and adapted to:

receive a call request for establishing a call between an originating endpoint and a terminating endpoint;

establish the call through the switching fabric, the packet fabric, or the switching fabric and the packet fabric based on the originating endpoint and the terminating endpoint.

22. (New) The switch of claim 21 further comprising a second interface adapted to connect the switching fabric to a public switched telephonic network (PSTN).

23. (New) The switch of claim 22 wherein when the originating endpoint and the terminating endpoint are coupled to the PSTN, the computing module is adapted to establish the call through the switching fabric.

24. (New) The switch of claim 23 wherein when the originating endpoint and the terminating endpoint are both coupled to the packet fabric, the computing module is adapted to establish the call through the packet fabric.

25. (New) The switch of claim 24 wherein when the originating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric, the computing module is adapted to establish the call through the switching fabric and the packet fabric via the first interface.

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26. (New) The switch of claim 25 wherein when the originating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN, the computing module is adapted to establish the call through the packet fabric and the switching fabric via the first interface.

27. (New) The switch of claim 21 wherein the computing module is further adapted to receive the call request via a signaling network.

28. (New) The switch of claim 27 wherein the signaling network is a common channel signaling network.

29. (New) The switch of claim 22 wherein the computing module is further adapted to establish an inter-working bridge across the switching fabric for the call when the originating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN and when the originating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric.

30. (New) The switch of claim 29 wherein the first interface is further adapted to support the inter-working bridge across the switching fabric.

31. (New) The switch of claim 30 wherein the first interface is further adapted to generate an application instance for the inter-working bridge.

32. (New) The switch of claim 21 wherein the computing module comprises a signaling interface coupled to the packet fabric, the signaling interface adapted to receive call setup messages from and send call setup messages to the originating endpoint, the terminating endpoint, or the originating endpoint and the terminating endpoint through the packet fabric.

33. (New) The switch of claim 22 wherein the computing module operates to minimize the number of calls established through the switching fabric and the packet fabric.

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34. (New) The switch of claim 22 wherein the computing module is further adapted to formulate and send fabric control messages used to establish virtual connections in the packet fabric for transferring bearer traffic associated with the call when the originating endpoint, terminating endpoint, or the originating and terminating endpoints are coupled to the packet fabric.

35. (New) A telephony switch comprising:
means for interfacing a switching fabric in the telephony switch to a packet fabric;
means for receiving a call request for establishing a call between an originating endpoint and a terminating endpoint; and
means for establishing the call through the switching fabric, the packet fabric, or the switching fabric and the packet fabric based on the originating endpoint and the terminating endpoint.

36. (New) The switch of claim 35 further comprising a means for interfacing the switching fabric to a public switched telephone network (PSTN).

37. (New) The switch of claim 36 wherein when the originating endpoint and the terminating endpoint are coupled to the PSTN, the means for establishing the call establishes the call through the switching fabric.

38. (New) The switch of claim 37 wherein when the originating endpoint and the terminating endpoint are both coupled to the packet fabric, the means for establishing the call establishes the call through the packet fabric.

39. (New) The switch of claim 38 wherein when the originating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric, the means for establishing the call establishes the call through the switching fabric and the packet fabric via the first interface.

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40. (New) The switch of claim 39 wherein when the originating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN, the means for establishing the call establishes the call through the packet fabric and the switching fabric via the first interface.

41. (New) The switch of claim 35 wherein the means for receiving the call request receives the call request via a signaling network.

42. (New) The switch of claim 41 wherein the signaling network is a common channel signaling network.

43. (New) The switch of claim 36 wherein means for establishing the call is further adapted to establish an inter-working bridge across the switching fabric for the call when the originating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN and when the originating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric.

44. (New) The switch of claim 43 wherein the means for interfacing the switching fabric to the packet fabric is further adapted to support the inter-working bridge across the switching fabric.

45. (New) The switch of claim 44 wherein the means for interfacing the switching fabric to the packet fabric is further adapted to generate an application instance for the inter-working bridge.

46. (New) The switch of claim 35 wherein the means for establishing the call comprises a means for communicating with the packet fabric, wherein the means for communicating with the packet fabric is adapted to receive call setup messages from and send call setup messages to the originating endpoint, the terminating endpoint, or the originating endpoint and the terminating endpoint through the packet fabric.

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47. (New) The switch of claim 36 wherein the means for establishing the call operates to minimize the number of calls established through the switching fabric and the packet fabric.

48. (New) The switch of claim 36 wherein the means for establishing the call is further adapted to formulate and send fabric control messages used to establish virtual connections in the packet fabric for transferring bearer traffic associated with the call when the originating endpoint, terminating endpoint, or the originating and terminating endpoints are coupled to the packet fabric.

49. (New) A method of establishing a call between an originating endpoint and a terminating endpoint, comprising:

interfacing a switching fabric in the telephony switch to a packet fabric and a public switched telephone network (PSTN);

receiving a call request for establishing a call between an originating endpoint and a terminating endpoint; and

establishing the call through the switching fabric, the packet fabric, or the switching fabric and the packet fabric based on the originating endpoint and the terminating endpoint.

50. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein when the originating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN, the establishing step comprises establishing the call through the switching fabric.

51. (New) The method of claim 50 wherein when the originating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric, the establishing step comprises establishing the call through the switching fabric and the packet fabric.

52. (New) The method of claim 51 wherein when the originating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN fabric, the establishing step comprises establishing the call through the switching fabric and the packet fabric.

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53. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein when the originating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric, the establishing step comprises establishing the call through the packet fabric.

54. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein the receiving the call request step comprises receiving the call request via a signaling network.

55. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein the establishing the call step comprises establishing an inter-working bridge across the switching fabric for the call when the originating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN and when the originating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric.

56. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein the establishing the call step comprises receiving call setup messages from and sending call setup messages to the originating endpoint, the terminating endpoint, or the originating endpoint and the terminating endpoint through the packet fabric.

57. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein the establishing the call step minimizes the number of calls established through the switching fabric and the packet fabric.

58. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein the establishing the call step comprises formulating and sending fabric control messages used to establish virtual connections in the packet fabric for transferring bearer traffic associated with the call when the originating endpoint, terminating endpoint, or the originating and terminating endpoints are coupled to the packet fabric.